THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) According to available information a Workshop on "New Labour Policy and Employment Generation" was organised by All-India Manufacturers' Organisation (AIMO) in Bombay on 25-9-93. The recommendations of the workshop have not yet been sent to the Government. However, in the workshop a memorandum was submitted to the Minister of State for Labour by AIMO. The memorandum inter alia suggested :

(1) Simplification of Labour laws for its effective implementation.

(2) Formulation of a National Wage Policy in order to encourage efficiency and productivity.

(3) Formulation of an employment oriented Labour Policy.

(4) Establishment of special economic zones and formulation of composite labour laws for such economic zones.

(5) National Renewal Fund assistance to the private sector units.

The Government has taken note of the suggestions made in the memorandum. Streamlining of Labour laws, wage regime, promotion of employment and separation/terminal benefits for workers is a continuous process. Now a new Industrial Relations Law is being formulated with the objective of increasing productivity, generating higher rates of employment growth and establishment of harmonious industrial relations which will take care of industries irrespective of the zones of their location.

Computation of the Families under Poverty Line

*53. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the last date of computation of the numbers of families under the poverty line ;

(b) whether Government have directed the State Governments to update the above information ; and

(c) if so, by when the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The latest available estimate of the number of persons living below poverty line is for the year 1987-88.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission estimates the number and proportion of persons living below the poverty line. Statewise, on the basis of quinquennial surveys on household consumption expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The year of the next quinquennial survey is 1993-94.

Loss Suffered by STC on Import of Edible Oil

*54. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Business Pioneer of November 16, 1993 under the caption 'STC lost Rs. 9 crore on edible oil Import deal ;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation (STC) placed an order for the purchase of 30,000 tonnes of Palmolein with certain Malaysian firm without contacting established refineries in Malaysia, if so, what are the deails and the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether it is a fact that STC lost Rs. 9 crore in this deal and if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(e) if so, whether Government have made any enquiry into the allegations relating to the said import deal of palmolein by STC, if so, what are the details of investigations made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) In September, 1993, STC finalised contracts for import of 30,000 tonnes of Palmolein for delivery by mid-October from its empenelled suppliers of edible oils who have been supplying edilible oils in the past also. These contracts are reported to have been concluded at prices lower than the ruling market price for October delivery.

(d) and (e) Our attention has been drawn to some news items which have appeared in the newspapers on this issue. The Central Vigilance Commission has also made a reference on this issue to the STC for an early enquiry and report. The enquiry is in progress.

Indo-Indonesian Trade Talks

*55. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Indonesian bilateral trade talks were held recently; and

(b) if so, what are the areas of trade between the two countries that were covered and what is the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No Indo-Indonesian bilateral trade talks were held recently at the Government level. However, the 4th meeting of the Indo-Indonesian Joint Business Council and Seminar on "Trade and Investment Opportunities between India & Indonesia" was held on 18th November, 1993 in New Delhi, when trade and investment opportunities between the two countries were discussed.

National Commission for Labour

*56. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up National Commission for Labour;

(b) if so, by when the Commission is likely to be set up; and

(c) whether the Commission, when set up, is also likely to consider productivity linked wage regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) In the Indian Labour Conference held in September, 1992, representatives of Certain Central trade unions had suggested constitution of a Second National Commission on Labour. The matter is under examination.

*57. [*Transferred to 10th December, 1993*]

Representations on 'Dunkel Draft'

*58. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received representations on 'Dunkel Draft' expressing concern at India's surrendering its options for asking for renegotiations in the matter, as reported in "The Hindustan Times" dated 25th November, 1993 under the caption "Prime Minister cautioned on Dunkel Draft";

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that acceptance of the Dunkel draft as such would mean a grave setback to India's efforts at self-reliant economic growth, particularly in critical branches like seed production, food processing, drugs, energy, feed stock; chemicals and branches of industrial biotechnology; and